

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OPR-02 A-01 USIA-15 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 DRC-01 M-02 CPR-02

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P 211400Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4668

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: AREC GH

SUB: ACCRA COMMISSARY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NOTE (DATED AUG 14 BUT RECEIVED AUG 20) FROM MFA IN WHICH MINISTRY QUESTIONS PARTICIPATION OF NON-DIPLOMATIC STAFF IN COMMISSARY. (SUCH STAFF LIMITED TO APPROXIMATELY 30 STATE AND USIS NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AS AID PERSONNEL ARE COVERED UNDER BILATERAL AGREEMENT, A POINT MISSED BY MFA IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS.)

2. AFTER REPEATING WELL-KNOWN REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO INITIAL DUTY FREE ENTRY RIGHTS FOR NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND NOTING THAT ANY IMPORTATION (WHETHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT THROUGH COMMISSARY) IS NOT PERMITTED, MFA WENT ON IN TWO SUCCEEDING PARAGRAPHS TO STATE:

A. " FROM THE FOREGOING IT SHOULD BE APPRECIATED THAT ANY DEPARTURE FROM THE GENERAL RULE SHOULD BE BY A RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY SUCH AGREEMENT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE COMMISSARY AS IT IS NOW BEING RUN IS WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORITY FROM THIS MINISTRY.

B." IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED THEREFORE THAT PENDING THE FORMULATION OF AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE COMMISSARY

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ACCEPTABLE OF AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE COMMISSARY

ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES THE FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN
THE COMMISSARY BY THE NON-DIPLOMATIC STAFF SHALL BE
SUSPENDED."

3. MINISTRY HAS RAISED ISSUE AT VARIOUS TIMES IN PAST
(ALTHOUGH OUR FILES HAVE BEEN RETIRED AND DETAILS CANNOT
BE FOUND HERE) AND MOST RECENTLY IN NOVEMBER, 1973. AT
THAT TIME ISSUE WAS TEMPORARILY PUSHED ASIDE (SEE MEMCON,
BRUCE/DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, 2/15/74, COPY SENT AF/W BISHOP)
BUT PRESENT NOTE IS DELAYED FOLLOW ON.

4. ISSUE IS, OF COURSE, ONE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MORAL
AT POST. EMBASSY WILL SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH CHIEF OF
PROTOCOL BUT WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ASAP
ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO MFA'S SUGGESTION ON RECIPROCITY.
(IN MEANTIME, WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT TAKEN ACTION REQUESTED
PARA 2 B. ABOVE.)
HANSON

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